

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9201

S E C R E T SEOUL 6910

NODIS CHEROKEE

REF: (A) SEOUL 6748, (B) SEOUL 6794, (C) STATE 216547

1. IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SEPTEMBER 1, I BRIEFED HIM ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AT MAC SECRETARIES' MEETING, INCLUDING U.S. POSITIVE APPRAISAL OF NORTH KOREAN PROPOSALS FOR JSA ARRANGEMENTS (REF C). I POINTED OUT THAT NORTH KOREAN PROPOSALS CONTAINED BOTH CLEAR-CUT ASSURANCES FOR SAFETY OF OUR FORCES AND PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD SERVE SAME PURPOSE, MEETING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS SET BY PRESIDENT PARK. FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH NORTH KOREAN PROPOSALS AND NO DISAGREEMENT WITH OUR APPRAISAL.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER THEN WENT ON TO REITERATE PRESIDENT PARK'S SUGGESTION FOR WARNING TO NORTH KOREANS FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF INCIDENT (REFS A AND B). HE URGED THAT WE MOVE RAPIDLY TO FORMULATION OF SUCH WARNING SINCE AGREEMENT WITH NORTH KOREANS APPEARED INCREASINGLY IMMINENT. I TOLD PAK THAT I HAD NOT RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM WASHINGTON.

3. PAK THOUGHT THAT SUCH WARNING WOULD GO FAR TO REASSURE KOREAN PUBLIC AS WELL AS LEADERSHIP.

4. RECOMMENDATION: ASSUMING THAT WE REACH AGREEMENT WITH NORTH KOREANS ON JSA ARRANGEMENTS, I WOULD RECOMMEND ONE MORE SESSION WITH PRESIDENT PARK JUST PRIOR TO SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT. IN THIS SESSION, I WOULD SUGGEST FOLLOWING POINTS BE MADE:

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A. INFORMING PARK OF OUR INTENTION TO SIGN AGREEMENT
AND PROVIDEING POSITIVE RATIONALE FOR THIS DECISION,
PARTICULARLY IN TERMS HIS "MINIMUM" REQUIREMENTS;

B. HIGH LEVEL MESSAGE TO HIM REITERATING OUR
APPRECIATION FOR CLOSE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION
THROUGHOUT RESPONSE TO AUGUST 18 INCIDENT,
INCLUDING CLOSE CONSULTATION ON JSA ARRANGEMENTS;

C. TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT, INCLUDING WELCOME TO AGREEMENT,
POSITIVE NOTE AND CAREFULLY PHRASED WARNING TO NORTH KOREA
AS RECOMMENDED REF B AND COVERING PROVOCATIONS BY NORTH NOT
ONLY IN JSA BUT IN DMZ AND OTHER POINTS OF CONTACT. BY GOING
BEYOND JSA AREA, WE WILL HELP AMELIORATE PARK'S CONCERNS;

D. FRANK REITERATION THAT THERE MUST BE FULL
JOINT CONSULTATION BEFORE ANY RETALIATORY ACTION
TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO FUTURE NORTH KOREAN PROVOCATIONS,
REFERRING IN THIS CONTEXT TO HIS OWN DEEP CONCERNS
REGARDING AVOIDANCE OF BROADER HOSTILITIES.
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